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which the question has been put by the hon. Member, he seems to have some valuable information in his custody with reference to certain persons. If only he passes that information to us, we will be very much obliged to him."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Questions Nos. 362 and 363 may be taken up together as they relate to the same subject. The same question came up for discussion in this House before and I allowed enough time for it."

Crossword competitions.

* 362 *Q*.—Sri P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of crosswords and similar competitions in our State;

(*b*) whether the Government get any income from these competitions either by way of tax or by way of licence fees;

(*c*) whether the Government are examining the question of preventing these competitions; and

(*d*) if not, why not?

The Hon. Sri K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" (*a*) Government do not have the information required.

" (*b*) No.

" (*c*) & (*d*) The question of undertaking legislation in the matter is engaging the attention of the Government of India."

* 363 *Q*.—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that there is prevalence of crosswords and similar other competitions in the State on a large scale; and

(*b*) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check them or to put an end to them ?

The Hon. Sri K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) The question of undertaking legislation in the matter is engaging the attention of the Government of India."

Sri S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" In view of the fact that the continuance of crossword competitions is causing definite harm to the people, will the Government issue instructions at least to their officers and highly-placed gentlemen like the Mayor of Madras and the Hon. the Chairman of the Madras Legislative Council not to take part in functions arranged for distributing prizes in crossword competitions? "

The Hon. Sri K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" Every effort is made to book the culprits concerned."

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SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Mr. Deivasigamany's question pertains to the high personages partaking in the functions of distributing prizes. The Hon. Minister answered that he would charge the culprits concerned. Does he mean by that, the Mayor of Madras and the Hon. Chairman of the Madras Legislative Council are some of the culprits of that nature? "

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" I am sorry the hon. Member has not understood what I said. The crime can be put down only by punishing the culprits concerned. I have already answered on a previous occasion that the Government have issued a press release warning the public that such crossword puzzle companies are trying to dupe them. But as regards the allegations made in respect of individuals, I would not be able to answer it."

MR. SPEAKER :—" They are not making any allegation. They have not made the point clear."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" I wanted that the Government should see that highly-placed officials and responsible persons should not take part in functions arranged to distribute prizes in crossword competitions."

THE HON. SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—" The hon. Member should understand the difficulty of the Government. The Government cannot issue such instructions to individuals presuming that they are taking part in it. What we can do is to issue a press release stating that these are the facts and this bogus competition should not be encouraged and the Government are taking action to book the culprits. That is all what the Government can do in the matter."

Method of recruiting Assistant Commercial Tax Officers.

* 364 *Q.*—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the recruitment of Assistant Commercial Tax Officers by transfer from the category of Sub-Registrars of the Registration Department has been stopped; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons for the same?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) When the Commercial Taxes Department was formed in 1939, there was need for persons trained in executive work. The Government accordingly recruited men to that department from the Revenue, Excise and Forest Departments. Later on, they recruited men to the posts of Assistant Commercial Tax Officers also from the Registration Department. In 1953, the Government examined the question whether it was necessary to continue to recruit men to the posts of Assistant Commercial Tax Officers from the other departments. They